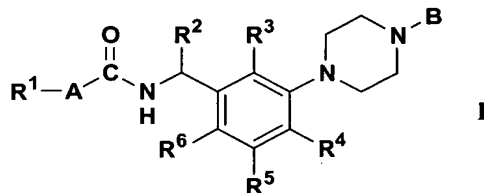


What is claimed is:

1. A compound of Formula I or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof



5

wherein

R¹ is selected from the group consisting of pyridinyl, 3-quinolinyl, 2-thienyl,
C₃₋₆ cycloalkyl and phenyl optionally substituted with substituent
independently selected from the group consisting of halogen, C₁₋₄ alkyl,
10 C₁₋₄ alkoxy, trifluoromethyl and trifluoromethoxy;

A is -CH=CH- or -(CH₂)_n;

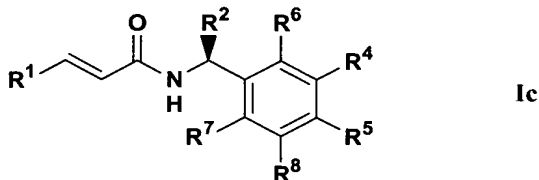
R² is C₁₋₄ alkyl, CF₃ or hydroxymethyl;

R³, R⁴, R⁵ and R⁶ each are independently hydrogen or fluoro;

n is an integer of 1 or 2; and

15 B is 2-pyridinyl, 3-pyridinyl or 4-pyridinyl.

2. The compound of claim 1 having the Formula Ib or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof



20 wherein

R¹ is selected from the group consisting of pyridinyl, 3-quinolinyl, 2-thienyl,
C₃₋₆ cycloalkyl and phenyl optionally substituted with substituent
independently selected from the group consisting of halogen, C₁₋₄ alkyl,
C₁₋₄ alkoxy, trifluoromethyl and trifluoromethoxy;

25 A is -CH=CH- or -(CH₂)_n;

R² is methyl or hydroxymethyl;

R³, R⁴, R⁵ and R⁶ each are independently hydrogen or fluoro;

n is an integer of 1 or 2; and

B is 2-pyridinyl, 3-pyridinyl or 4-pyridinyl.

- 5 3. The compound of claim 1 selected from the group consisting of:
 (*S*)-3-phenyl-N-{1-[3-(4-pyridin-2-yl-piperazin-1-yl)-phenyl]-ethyl}-acrylamide;
 (*S*)-3-(2-fluoro-phenyl)-N-{1-[3-(4-pyridin-2-yl-piperazin-1-yl)-phenyl]-ethyl}-
 acrylamide;
 (*S*)-3-(3-fluoro-phenyl)-N-{1-[3-(4-pyridin-2-yl-piperazin-1-yl)-phenyl]-ethyl}-
10 acrylamide;
 (*S*)-3-(2,3-difluoro-phenyl)-N-{1-[3-(4-pyridin-2-yl-piperazin-1-yl)-phenyl]-
 ethyl}-acrylamide;
 (*S*)-3-(2,4-difluoro-phenyl)-N-{1-[3-(4-pyridin-2-yl-piperazin-1-yl)-phenyl]-
 ethyl}-acrylamide;
15 (*S*)-3-(2,5-difluoro-phenyl)-N-{1-[3-(4-pyridin-2-yl-piperazin-1-yl)-phenyl]-
 ethyl}-acrylamide;
 (*S*)-3-(2,6-difluoro-phenyl)-N-{1-[3-(4-pyridin-2-yl-piperazin-1-yl)-phenyl]-
 ethyl}-acrylamide;
 (*S*)-3-(3,4-difluoro-phenyl)-N-{1-[3-(4-pyridin-2-yl-piperazin-1-yl)-phenyl]-
20 ethyl}-acrylamide;
 (*S*)-3-(3,5-difluoro-phenyl)-N-{1-[3-(4-pyridin-2-yl-piperazin-1-yl)-phenyl]-
 ethyl}-acrylamide;
 (*S*)-3-(2,4-difluoro-phenyl)-N-{1-[3-(4-pyridin-2-yl-piperazin-1-yl)-phenyl]-
 ethyl}-propionamide;
25 (*S*)-3-(3,4-difluoro-phenyl)-N-{1-[3-(4-pyridin-2-yl-piperazin-1-yl)-phenyl]-
 ethyl}-propionamide;
 (*S*)-2-(2,5-difluoro-phenyl)-N-{1-[3-(4-pyridin-2-yl-piperazin-1-yl)-phenyl]-
 ethyl}-acetamide;
 (*S*)-2-(2,6-difluoro-phenyl)-N-{1-[3-(4-pyridin-2-yl-piperazin-1-yl)-phenyl]-
30 ethyl}-acetamide;
 (*S*)-2-cyclopentyl-N-{1-[3-(4-pyridin-2-yl-piperazin-1-yl)-phenyl]-ethyl}-
 acetamide; and

(*S*)-2-cyclohexyl-N-{1-[3-(4-pyridin-2-yl-piperazin-1-yl)-phenyl]-ethyl}-acetamide;
or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

- 5 4. A pharmaceutical composition for the treatment of disorders responsive to opening of KCNQ potassium channels comprising a therapeutically effective amount of the compound of claim 1 in association with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, adjuvant or diluent.
- 10 5. A method for the treatment of disorders responsive to opening of the KCNQ potassium channels in a mammal in need thereof, which comprises administering to said mammal a therapeutically effective amount of the compound of claim 1.
- 15 6. The method of claim 5 wherein said disorders are acute and chronic pain, migraine, neuropathic pain, bipolar disorders, convulsions, mania, epilepsy, anxiety, depression and neurodegenerative disorders.
- 20 7. The method of claim 6 wherein said disorder is migraine.
8. The method of claim 6 wherein said disorder is neuropathic pain.